

- **The New Schools Project:** Funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the New Schools Project operates under the auspices of Easley's Education Cabinet and will start 50 new small conversion schools by 2008-09 focused on emerging industries across the state such as biotechnology, health care, and information technology.
- **The Center for 21st Century Skills:** Housed in the N.C. Business Committee for Education in the Office of the Governor, the nation's first-ever Center for 21st Century Skills will focus on the redesign of high school curriculum, teacher training and assessment to incorporate 21st century content and learning skills. The Center is expected to be operational by August.

Created by the nation's governors and business leaders, Achieve, Inc., is a bipartisan, non-profit organization that helps states raise academic standards, improve assessments and strengthen accountability to prepare young people for postsecondary education, work and citizenship. Achieve regularly convenes governors, CEOs and other influential leaders to sustain support for higher standards and achievement for America's schoolchildren.

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